

Excerpts from his testimony are as follows:

“Since 1971, Davis Street Community Center has provided critical, life-sustaining services to poor and working families in Central Alameda County, California. Davis Street’s comprehensive range of family services include site-based and voucher child care; food; clothing for work; free medical services; employment preparation, placement and follow-up; crisis counseling; case management; and referral services.

Over the past ten years, Davis Street’s programs, budget and clients have grown twenty-fold. Currently, Davis Street administers an annual budget of \$7.1 million and provides critical services to more than 3,500 families each year. This translates to over 10,000 people, including over 1,000 children served by Davis Street each year.

Although Davis Street has been able to respond to the growing needs of the working poor over the past 30 years, it will not be able to continue to meet the increasing demand for services unless it can move to a larger, more efficient facility. What was once appropriately named the Davis Street Community “Center” is now spread out over two different sites, and many programs are unable to provide the quality and quantity of services due to inadequate facility space.

Davis Street is taking decisive steps toward reuniting its services by creating an inviting Family Resource Center which will ease the burden of fragmentation and overcrowding on its clients. Davis Street has selected, and is planning to purchase, a new site from which to run its programs with the help of Community Development Block Grant funds, private donations and Federal and State funding. The new space will enable Davis Street to provide seamless services that address the needs of the whole person and family, all under one roof. The additional space will allow the Center to accommodate many more families each year. With the support of the VA-HUD Subcommittee, Davis Street Community Center can continue to grow its programs to meet the needs of those families who need a helping hand in their efforts to move from welfare to gainful employment.”